

**Children suffering from malnutrition**

**1324. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA:** Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have conducted any scientific study/survey to ascertain the size of population of children suffering from malnourishment owing to poverty in various parts of the country;

(b) if so, the State-wise details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether Government contemplate to conduct a special study for this purpose in the near future; and

(e) if not, the rationale thereof?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY):** (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The National Family Health Surveys (NFHS)-1 conducted during 1992-93 and NFHS 2 conducted during 1998-99 by the International Institute of Population Sciences, Mumbai, under the aegis of Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, included assessment of magnitude of malnutrition amongst children below three years in major States of the country. NFHS-2 Report also analyses the extent of malnutrition amongst children on the basis of standard of living index of the family.

State-wise details on prevalence of malnutrition amongst children below three years are given in the enclosed statement (See below).

(d) and (e) NFHS-3 has already been undertaken in the country during 2005-06. Provisional data for some States has since been released during August and November, 2006 and the provisional data in respect of remaining major States would be available shortly. Complete report of NFHS-3 would be available in due course.

**Statement****NUTRITIONAL STATUS OF CHILDREN BY STATE**

Percentage prevalence of under-weight in children

Under 4 years weight for age below-2sd

	Underweight	
	NFHS I (1992-93)	NFHS II* (1998-99)
INDIA	53.4	47
NORTH		
Delhi	41.6	34.7
Haryana	37.9	34.6
Himachal Pradesh	47	43.6
J & K	44.5	34.5
Punjab	45.9	28.7
Rajasthan	41.6	50.6
CENTRAL		
Madhya Pradesh	57.4	55.1
Uttar Pradesh	59	51.7
EAST		
Bihar	62.6	54.4
Orissa	53.3	54.4
West Bengal	56.8	48.7
NORTH EAST		
Arunachal Pradesh	39.7	24.3
Assam	50.4	36
Manipur	30.1	27.5
Meghalaya	45.5	37.9
Mizoram	28.1	27.7
Nagaland	28.7	24.1
Sikkim	48.8	20.6
WEST		
Goa	35	28.6
Gujarat	50.1	45.1
Maharashtra	54.2	49.6
SOUTH		
Andhra Pradesh	49.1	37.7
Karnataka	54.3	43.9
Kerala	28.5	26.9
Tamil Nadu	48.2	36.7

\*For children under 3 years only.